

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) and (b) In the pre-monsoon season the country normally receives an average rainfall of 26 mm in March and 36 mm in April. Hence rains during this period are not unseasonal. According to the reports received from the State Governments, the rains and hailstorms in some places during March-April, 1997 damaged a cropped area of about 70,000 ha. in Andhra Pradesh and 4600 ha. in Uttar Pradesh. Some damage to cropped area has occurred in the States of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan also, the exact extent of which has not been reported.

(c) and (d) While it is not the practice to provide compensation to those affected by natural calamities, the State Governments provide necessary assistance to the affected farmers using the annual allocation of the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF). The annual allocation of the CRF is given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

(Rs. in Crores)

Sl.No.	State	Calamity Relief Fund Allocation for 1997-98
1.	Andhra Pradesh	131.25
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	7.43
3.	Assam	52.77
4.	Bihar	54.83
5.	Goa	1.13
6.	Gujarat	147.31
7.	Haryana	26.44
8.	Himachal Pradesh	28.44
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	20.79
10.	Karnataka	44.16
11.	Kerala	58.47
12.	Madhya Pradesh	53.89
13.	Maharashtra	71.97
14.	Manipur	2.61
15.	Meghalaya	2.95
16.	Mizoram	1.33
17.	Nagaland	1.80
18.	Orissa	51.72
19.	Punjab	57.15
20.	Rajasthan	188.93
21.	Sikkim	4.97
22.	Tamil Nadu	62.63
23.	Tripura	4.75
24.	Uttar Pradesh	132.03
25.	West Bengal	54.16
Total		1263.71

[English]

Attack of Gall Pest on Paddy

4796. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Central team from ICAR has visited Kerala particularly in Kuttanad region to study the effect of Gall Pest attack on paddy; and

(b) if so, the findings of the study team?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) An estimated 8,000 hectare of rice was affected by the gall midge in Kuttanad area of Allepy district of Kerala during December, 1996. Jyothi and Triveni, the two major rice varieties grown in the region are susceptible to the gall midge Bio type-5 responsible for this outbreak. Immediate remedial measures to check the pest were recommended. In addition, short and long term strategies for management of the pest have been suggested. These include growing resistant varieties and use of need based pesticides.

Chakma Refugees

4797. SHRI SUDHIR GIRI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Chakmas staying in the relief camp in Tripura;

(b) whether the Union Government have persuaded the matter of their deportation with Bangladesh;

(c) if so, the details of the agreement arrived at in this regard;

(d) whether the Union Government have made any arrangements for their safe return; and

(e) if so, the time by which it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) There are 45474 Chakma refugees staying in six relief camps in Tripura.

(b) and (c) Government of India have been making continuous efforts to facilitate the dialogue between the representatives of the refugees and the Government of Bangladesh. The two sides have recently reached an agreement for repatriation and rehabilitation of the refugees in Bangladesh. Details of the agreement are given in the Statement attached.

(d) and (e) Facilities like transport and escort are provided by the State Government to the refugees for their repatriation upto the Indian side of the border. The rest of the arrangements on the Bangladesh side are made by the Government of Bangladesh. So far 6701 refugees have returned to Bangladesh between 28th March to 7th April, 97. It is not possible for the Government to fix any time-frame for repatriation of the refugees which is proceeding as per the terms of the agreement reached between the parties.

Statement

Repatriation of hill tribal refugees from Tripura State of India to Bangladesh

A JOINT DECLARATION

Under the leadership of Janab Abdul Hasanat Abdullah, Chief whip of Bangladesh National Assembly, a team of representatives of National Committee for Chittagong affairs visited Tripura State in two phase from 27 February to 2 March and secondly from 6 March to 9 March, 1997. During their visit, the team visited many refugee camps. A meeting was held in between the team of representatives and the tribal refugee leaders of Chittagong hills who have been residing in Tripura, about Bangladesh Government's decision to provide various concessions to the refugees for their return to their homeland and decided to start the repatriation work after their unanimous agreement on the following matters:

1. Security of life and property of all citizens of Bangladesh along with tribal refugees will be persual in accordance with the Constitution and law.
2. Each tribal refugee family who will return will be given Rs. 15,000/- at a time as per demand of the refugee leaders on 14 February, 1994 by adding another Rs. 5,000/- to Rs. 10,000/- as sanctioned earlier for house construction and as agricultural grant. Grant will also be given to perform the rituals of the family members killed in the hill area as per list supplied by the refugee leaders.
3. Each returnee refugee family will be given 5 Kg of rice per head for adult and 2.5 kg of rice for minor per week for 9 (nine) months and each family will be given monthly 4 (four) kg. of pulses, 2 (two) kg. of soyabean oil and 2 (two) kg. of salt for 9 (nine) months.
4. Each returnee refugee family will be provided 2 (two) bundles of CI sheet (corrugated tin) for construction of their houses.
5. The refugee farmers who have agricultural land will be paid Rs. 10,000/- (ten thousand) to purchase bullock after necessary verification is made. In those cases where the refugee could not complete mutation of his ancestral land in his own name but is enjoying the

benefit of that land, mutation will be arranged provided that a succession certificate from the Headman is produced.

6. Each landless family will be given Rs. 3,000/- (Rupees three thousand) to buy a cow and every family will be allotted land according to the policy of the Government.
7. The Government's decision to exempt agricultural loan upto Rs. 5,000/- will also be applicable to every refugee family.
8. Every tribal refugee family, residing in India will be exempted from repayment of loan money taken from various Banks after their return to home land.
9. The loan taken from the Hill Chittagong Development Board by the Bangladesh tribal refugees, taken shelter in India will be exempted.
10. The declaration of general amnesty of the Government will remain. The same is also applicable to the cases where warrants were issued for insurgency activities.
11. The land owned by the refugees will be returned to them and the religious places will be restored. The tribals will not be rehabilitated in cluster villages.
12. The cases of those refugees who were government or semi-government employees prior to their leaving the country will be considered sympathetically for their reinstatement and as per existing service rules their seniority in services and other facilities will be reinstated. Preference will be given to the tribal candidates in employment as a backward and under developed class.
13. An agreement will be made for the students who will produce S.S.C. and H.S.C. pass certificate issued from High Schools and Colleges established in the camps to sit in a special test to be conducted under concerning Board.
14. The students belonging to returnee refugee families will be given scope for their admission in schools and colleges.
15. Each refugees family, returned, will also be issued a permit to collect necessary wood for construction of dwelling houses in addition to 2 (two) bundles of corrugated sheet as decided earlier.
16. Repatriated tribal youths will be given preference to the class III and class IV posts in Chittagong Development Board and local Government Council for a certain period if they will have necessary qualification.
17. The relaxation of age limit for recruitment in government services will be considered specially for those who had crossed the age bar during their stay in Tripura.

18. The tribal refugees who were convicted in sabotage linked criminal cases during previous regime will be granted general amnesty.
19. Troops will be withdrawn from civilian area in succession, considering the prevailing situation in Hill Chittagong.
20. Every tribal Headman will be reinstated to their own post.

A joint task force will be constituted in co-ordination with the National Committee and representatives from refugees to be in execution of these 20 (twenty) point concessions and its supervision. In first phase on 28 March, 1997, 5000 (five thousand) refugees will start their repatriation. One month after this repatriation, a team of refugee leader will inspect the overall condition of the rehabilitated refugees and general situation prevailing in the Hill Chittagong. If the situation is found normal, the repatriation process will continue.

Upendra Lal Chakma
President,
Hill District Jumma
Refugee Welfare
Committee

A.S.M. Mobaidul Islam
Director General
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Decline in Wheat Output

4798. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for the decline in wheat output which is estimated at about 62.2 million tonnes in the current fiscal year (1996-97) down from 65.2 million tonnes in 1995-96;

(b) whether the Government assessed its impact in terms of food security considering the sharp drop in the official procurement;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) :
(a) The All India Production of wheat during 1996-97 crop year is expected to be about 64.66 million tonnes which is higher by 3.26% than the production of 62.62 million tonnes achieved in 1995-96 crop year.

(b) to (d) In spite of the reduction in procurement by 4.1 million tonnes in 1996-97 Rabi Marketing Season as

compared to the previous season the Central Government had adequate stocks to meet the full requirement of PDS. With a view to controlling the rising trend in the prices of wheat and wheat products in the market, the Government decided to import upto 2 million tonnes of wheat in December, 1996 to augment availability of wheat in the country. The Government also banned the export of wheat and wheat products besides imposing licensing and stock holding limits on wheat.

In order to maximise procurement in the Rabi Marketing Season 1997-98, the Government have decided to give a bonus to Rs. 60 per quintal in addition to the MSP of Rs. 415 per quintal. This represent a hefty increase of Rs. 95 per quintal in the procurement price of wheat as compared to the previous season. The ban on export of wheat and wheat products and stock holding limits will also continue in 1997-98. The production of wheat is expected to be 64.66 million tonnes which, in view of the attractive procurement price announced by the Government is likely to result in adequate level of procurement of wheat in 1997-98 Rabi Marketing season to meet full requirement of TPDS and also the buffer stocking norms.

Remunerative Prices to Jute Farmers

4799. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the jute farmers of Bihar are getting the remunerative prices;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether due to this the farmers are not taking keen interests in jute farming;

(d) whether jute industry is being ruined due to this; and

(e) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) :
(a) and (b) The wholesale prices for TD-5 grade of raw jute at Purnia Centre in Bihar for which data are available, are ruling around Rs. 825 per quintal. These are much above the Minimum Support Price of Rs. 541 fixed for this grade in Bihar.

(c) The cultivation of jute in Bihar is progressing satisfactorily. Both, area and production have been generally showing rising trend. An area of about 1.42 lakh ha. was cultivated under jute in Bihar in 1996-97 as against 1.37 lakh ha. in 1990-91. The production of jute which was 10.1 lakh bales (180 Kg. each) in 1990-91 increased to 12.92 lakh bales in 1996-97.